

Palisades is the word used to describe a line of lofty, steep cliffs usually seen along a river, and Mississippi Palisades, 3 miles north of Savanna in Carroll County, handsomely lives up to its name. Caves are evident as are dangerous sink holes-lime-stone caves that go straight down. Erosion has carved intriguing rock formations, including Indian Head, with its aquiline characteristics, and Twin Sisters, a pair of humanoid figures on the bluff tops. The U.S. Interior Department recognized the remarkable nature of this area when in 1973 it designated acreage here as a national landmark.

Natural Features

The Native American pathfinders along the rock palisades of the Mississippi River did as present-day hikers do - in coursing the bluffs, they took the paths of least resistance. The trails at the Mississippi Palisades, especially the park's southern routes, puts you in touch with the past. Walk them and you'll trace the footsteps of all those who came before you, some of whom came this way nearly a thousand years ago. Located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Apple rivers in northwestern Illinois, the 2,500-acre Mississippi Palisades State Park is rich in American Indian history.

Mississippi Palisades State Park



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Mississippi Palisades

S T A T E P A R K



MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK

Illinois

Department of
Natural Resources

Wooded ravines, whose brilliant hues splash the cliffs with color each autumn, dissect the ungated terrain. Ferns, dot the deep ravines, while in the park's northern region, leaves of the white birch ripple in the wind. Each spring and summer the valleys and slopes are dappled with the blooms of trillium, bluebell, lobelia, shooting star and yellow ladies' slipper. Animal life, within the park and the river areas immediately adjoining it, is varied. Waterfowl and shorebirds are numerous, as are wild turkeys. Striking piledated woodpeckers make their home in the park, and depending on ice conditions, eagles feed at the river in January and February. Because so many birds migrate along the river, their lyrical songs can be heard at the Mississippi Palisades each spring and fall. But not all that's fascinating about Mississippi Palisades' wildlife is in the skies. White-tailed deer, gray squirrel, skunk, muskrat and weasel can be viewed in the park, as can mink, gray and red fox, woodchuck and, even occasionally, badger.

Trails

The gateway to seeing the park's impressive assortment of plant and animal life is its rugged 15 mile trail system. The five trails in the northern part of the park are generally wider and less strenuous than the five in the south, which are narrow and extremely close to the bluff. The southern trails also are very hazardous when wet.

The North System includes High Point Trail at 3.5 miles and Aspen at 1.9 miles. Sentinel Trail, at 1.2 miles including spurs, is the South System's longest hike, but it and other southern loops aren't for the ten-defoot. Ozzie's Point, Louis' Point and Lookout Point, four developed overlooks accessible by short walks, offer a surfaced trail leading to an overlook. Oak Point offers a trail surface suitable for the physically challenged. Hiking trails are closed during the park's three-day

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16327A IL Rt. 84, Savanna, IL 61074
815-273-2731

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2Connect.
- Telecommunication Device for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Natural Resources Information **(217) 782-9175 for TDD only**
Relay Number **800-526-0844**.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175

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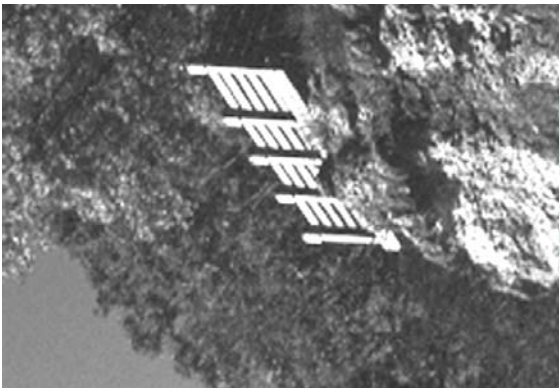
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Two youth camping areas are also available. These may be reserved from May 15 through October 31. An adult must accompany every group of 15 minors. Any group of 25 or more must get permission from the site personnel before entering the park.

Fishing and Boating

With the Mississippi River and its backwaters the perfect habitat for so many kinds of fish, anglers are

three buildings and are in operation from May 1 until Oct 31. You can pick up supplies at a camp convenience store, open during the summer. The campground also features water and two sanitary dump stations.



With 241 Class A and B sites in both shaded and open areas, Mississippi Palisades is in demand by campers. Because of its popularity, in fact, all camping is on a first-come, first-served basis, and reservations are not accepted. Electrical hookups are available at 110 sites. Showers and flush toilets are situated in

Camping

firearm deer season, and specific information in available at the park office.

consistently baiting their hooks at Mississippi Palisades. Catfish and carp are the most commonly caught fish, but bluegill, crappie and bass are out there too. Those long on experience might even land wall-eye and northern pike. There are no motor size limits on boats, and launching ramps at the river access areas are free.

Hunting

Hunters gather at the park each year for archery and firearm hunting for deer and wild turkey. During the three-day shotgun deer season, the campground, day use area and hiking trails are closed. Contact the park office for specific information.

Picnicking

Throw a checkered tablecloth across one of the park's many picnic tables and enjoy one of summer's simple pleasures. Playgrounds and toilets are convenient to the picnic areas. The shelter houses and drinking fountains in the park attest to the 1930's craftsmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Three shelters are available to groups of 25 or more on a reservation basis.

Winter Sports

Don't let a little cold weather keep you from visiting the park. Mississippi Palisades offers cross-country skiing and sledding for outdoor enthusiasts. Anglers aren't left out in the cold either-or maybe they are-

because ice fishing is allowed at the boat launch area when the ice is thick enough.

Enjoy Your Visit

Your trip to Mississippi Palisades State Park will be more enjoyable for you and for everyone if you follow a few simple rules. Keep your pets leashed at all times. Stay on designated trails. Don't pick any flowers. As the Indians did, leave only footprints.

For more information, contact Mississippi Palisades State Park, 16327A Illinois Route 84, Savanna, Ill., 61074, (815) 273-2731.

